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THE NEW YEAR

The year 1963 will be a climactic one for the National Library of Medicine.

---The MEDLARS project will be completed, and should be operational by the end of the year.

---The new building will be brought to completion: the computer site will be finished and equipment installed; new offices will be erected; the ceramic tile mural for the rotunda will be in place; the cutting of the roadway into the main NIH reservation, now bogged down in a sea of mud and snow, will be completed.

---A decision will be reached on the extramural programs which the Library has been proposing for three years past -- their extent, their stewardship, their authorization.

---The Second International Congress on Medical Librarianship, in which NLM personnel have played a large planning role, will be held in Washington in June.

These events may happily help to mark this special anniversary of John Shaw Billings (1838-1913).

INDEX MEDICUS

The January 1963 Index Medicus contains citations for only 7,035 articles, and is thus the smallest issue since vol. 1, no. 1, of three years ago. It follows on the heels of the largest issue yet assembled; the December 1962 issue contained citations for 15,840 articles.

The size of the January issue and the delay of several weeks beyond its scheduled date of appearance are due to the extraordinary difficulties which surround the transition to MEDLARS, discussed in these pages in the last two issues. It is expected that normal publication schedules will be reestablished soon.

The January issue contains the new "List of Journals Indexed," with abbreviations. Part 2 of the January issue is the new edition of Medical Subject Headings.

B. M. T.

In an effort to inform the biomedical research community of significant translations from the medical and related scientific literature, the National Library of Medicine is establishing a new announcement service to provide a listing of selected items from the monthly Technical Translations useful to a medically-oriented audience. The first issue, a retrospective Bibliography of Medical Translations covering the period January 1959 through June 1962, prepared by the Office of Technical Services, Department of Commerce, is currently in press. The Bibliography will contain approximately 5,900 entries arranged alphabetically by initial authors and/or titles where authors are not given; there will also be a listing by journal source, and a 100-item patent number index. Distribution will be made to government establishments outside of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and to medical research institutions and libraries. Plans are being developed to continue this listing by a quarterly supplement.

CHEMICAL-BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

Medical librarians will watch with interest the progress of the forthcoming Chemical-Biological Activities, "a computer-produced Express Digest" prepared by the Chemical Abstracts Service. A sample issue, dated September 1962, has been published; following a market survey, regular publication is expected to begin in 1963. This index has many interesting technical features, one of which is the use of an IBM 1403 printer with an upper and lower case set of 120 characters.

SITE PREPARATION

Last month the construction firm of John C. Grimberg Company began preparation of the MEDLARS site. The selected area, the northwest sector of the main floor, must be ready for reception of computer components with a March delivery date. Construction involves placement of a false floor in the computer area proper to serve as cable conduit and air duct, the erection of glass partitions, and the installation of a packaged air-conditioning unit.

This move causes reverberations in other Library areas. The movable partitions forming the offices for the Technical Services Division have been dismantled, and new offices will be erected in another location. On the mezzanine some additional office partitioning is planned.

SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

Planning and preparations for the Second International Congress on Medical Librarianship, to be held at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, June 16-22, 1963, are now proceeding with increased intensity.

The Finance Committee has authorized 72 travel grants to librarians coming to the Congress from Asia, Africa, Europe, and South America.

Papers submitted to the Congress are being reviewed by the Program Committee (Organizing Committee).

Dr. Luther L. Terry, the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service, will serve as Honorary President of the Congress. Dr. Abraham Horwitz, Director of the Pan American Health Organization, will present an address at the Congress banquet session. Mr. S. O. Falayi (Nigeria), Dr. André Hahn (France), Mr. William R. Le Fanu (United Kingdom), and Dr. Tomio Ogata (Japan) will be among those serving as presiding officers at the various sessions.

The Exhibits Committee reports that a large number of commercial exhibitors have already subscribed for exhibit space, and more are expected.

The chairmen of the several Congress committees will meet at the National Library of Medicine on January 15 to develop these plans further.

CUMULATED INDEX MEDICUS

Manuscript for the 1962 edition of the Cumulated Index Medicus was shipped to the American Medical Association last month. The number of articles cited in this third cumulated volume comes to 145,786.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Mrs. Mildred Crowe Langner, Chief of the Reference Services Division since September 1961, has left NLM to become Chief Medical Librarian, University of Miami.

Dr. Joseph H. Roe, Jr., who joined the NLM staff in July 1961, became the new Chief of Reference Services Division, effective January 2, 1963. The roster of supervisory personnel in RSD is now as follows:

Chief	- Dr. Joseph H. Roe, Jr.
Deputy Chief	- Mr. Edward A. Miller
Head, Reference Section	- Mr. Charles A. Roos
Head, Loan and Stack Section	- Mrs. Maxine K. Hanke
Head, Photoduplication Section	- Mr. Svend A. Andersen
Head, Preservation Section	- Mr. Thomas R. Cassidy

Miss Winifred Sewell has been appointed Deputy Chief of the Bibliographic Services Division.

Mr. James D. Lawrence, the Library's Personnel Officer since April 1961, has been transferred to another section of the Office of the Director as administrative officer in financial management activities. Miss Donna C. Aldridge, who had been Mr. Lawrence's assistant since March 1962, is now the NLM Personnel Officer.

ADDITION TO COLLECTION

The National Library of Medicine has obtained a copy of Thaddeus Clark's An account of a remarkable case of the tetanus, Norwich, Connecticut, 1794. This is Austin 471, which notes only the holding of the Yale Medical Library, whence comes this copy, from its duplicates.

1964 INDEX MEDICUS

The first issue of Index Medicus for 1963 will soon appear, making evident the changes which the transition period to full MEDLARS status have brought about. It may be of interest to indicate some of the ultimate changes which will appear in 1964, when MEDLARS is at last in full flower.

In 1964 journal article titles will appear in the vernacular in the author section, but in English in the subject section. In the subject section the order of elements in the citation will be altered to allow the article title to appear first. The author section will become a name section (i.e., biographies, obituaries, etc. will appear therein, and not under special rubrics in the subject section). And the ordering of citations under the subject headings will be first by language, and within language by journal title.

These and other changes should keep life interesting for medical librarians for some time to come. Machine manipulation of bibliographic citations offers some spectacular advantages; there is, unfortunately, an inescapable corollary -- the machine is a hard taskmaster.

USIA ASSIGNMENT

On January 2 Dr. Galina Zarechnak of NLM's Technical Services Division began a two-months' assignment as a guide with the American Technical Books Exhibition, sponsored by the U. S. Information Agency. This assignment will take her to Moscow and Leningrad for one month in each city; she also intends to visit medical libraries there and expand NLM's book exchange.

Use of funds for printing this publication approved by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, February 26, 1960